

County of



Saratoga

Board of Supervisors

40 MCMASTER STREET
BALLSTON SPA, NEW YORK 12020

Phone: (518) 885-2240

Fax: (518) 884-4771

MATTHEW E. VEITCH
Chairman

PAMELA A. WRIGHT
Clerk

SARATOGA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD MEETING

September 14, 2015 – 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Andrew Prestigiacomio, Saratoga Springs PD; Bob Murphy, STOP-DWI Coordinator; Lenny Fornabia, NYSP; Brent Dupras, Sheriff's Office; Joseph Waldron, Mechanicville PD; Tim Williams, Waterford PD; Thomas Parks, Charlton Police; Ray Cordani, Mike Sharadin, Stillwater PD; Robin Lyle, Prevention Council; Patrick Campion, D.A.'s Office; Mickey Mahoney, Probation; Cynthia Dort, Cornell Ext. of Saratoga

Chairman Prestigiacomio called the meeting to order.

Mr. Murphy thanked all of the enforcement agencies for staying on task with everything especially the bookwork.

Mr. Murphy said with the last crackdown that we had, the last grant he wrote was for \$22,680. Right now, we are only \$400 short of that. Only one department has made a report to him, and he will make sure it is spent. With the State, if you don't use it, you lose it. This grant is all set to go for next year at the same amount.

Mr. Murphy said there is a line item in the budget called To Be Determined. Before we had the grants, we would give out very little money. He stated he still has \$12,000 to be given to the agencies. He said over Thanksgiving, agencies can take three to four days with six hours, and then for Christmas and New Years, agencies can have eight hours a piece.

Mr. Murphy stated he submitted the 2016 budget to the State, and they gave preliminary approval of it. he said our revenue and income are based on what all of the agencies do, plus we receive three State checks per year in the area of almost \$50,000. When he goes to the Public Safety Committee meeting to receive budget approval, the last check does not come until March. He said if any agency needs anything individually, just give him a call. He thanked the agencies again for all they have done.

Chairman Prestigiacomo urged the agencies to submit their Labor Day Crackdown information into Mr. Murphy as soon as possible.

Chairman Prestigiacomo reported the following:

- SSPD made 40 DWI arrests since the last meeting on July 6th. Ten of the arrests were made during the August 21st – September 7th Labor Day Crackdown period.
- SSPD partnered with the State Police on September 11th for a Child Passenger Safety detail at the Clifton Park/Halfmoon EMS building.
- Reminder: GTSC Grant Final Progress Reports are due October 15th. Payment Request Vouchers are due by October 31st.

Chairman Prestigiacomo stated it was an historical Track season with a lot of help from the Sheriff's Department and the State Police. He said he has great pictures with American Pharoah.

Chairman Prestigiacomo said the city had a serious pedestrian hit and run on Travers Day as someone was crossing Broadway. That is still under investigation. They have phenomenal video from Saratoga Taxi. This taxi goes to all of the jurisdictions and not just the city. They are GPS'd audio and video inside and out. They captured great video of that crash. He said they found the pedestrian's wallet embedded in the windshield, and they later located the driver.

He said that was the only serious accident during Track season. He mentioned SPAC traffic was coming in when the Track traffic was leaving. The State Police and the Sheriffs worked very well together. They said 50,000 tickets were sold for Travers, but that does not count children 12 and under. You add another five to seven kids with their families plus employees and people walking into the backstretch, so you are easily looking at 60,000+ people. He said with the bomb

dogs from State Police, SWAT team from Sheriff's office, and the Traffic Unit, there were a lot of cops. Verizon was brought in to boost cell phone signals. With that kinds of crowd, you could have lost your cell phone signal because of all of the data. We had to think of every aspect, not just traffic issues. He mentioned there was an incident with dry ice and water bombs going off a few days before the Travers with garbage cans exploding. He said they pulled it off pretty well with a lot of positive feedback.

Mr. Campion distributed copies of a flyer announcing their Annual DWI Training Seminar to be held on October 29th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Meeting Room. Breakfast and lunch will be included at no cost. He said hopefully they will get 50 attendees. He stated the overall goal is to erase the disconnect of what happens out in the field and translating that into the courtroom. As more and more cases become contested, it becomes more and more important in order to effectively prosecute DWIs. He requested RSVPs by October 19th so that they can have an idea of how much food to get. Mr. Fornabia requested Mr. Campion to let him know if spaces are not filled; just send him an e-mail, and he will offer it to Troopers outside the area who will ultimately end up in Saratoga County.

Chairman Prestigiacomo asked Mr. Murphy that if an agency needs overtime, is that applicable to the grant to attend this DWI training? Mr. Murphy stated yes.

Mr. Waldron said they participated in the Labor Day Crackdown with three DWI's during that period. They are seeing that these people are refusing to take the test. Refusing to submit is an automatic suspension of their license for a year whether they are found guilty or not. People are starting to hire better attorneys who are fighting every aspect of the stop. He said one of the DWI's was a DWI/crash who then ran on foot who was ultimately caught.

Mr. Waldron stated they did an Aggressive Driving detail for about a week with 186 tickets written. He said 45 tickets were issued for cell phones during August.

Chairman Prestigiacomo stated a prescription drug drop off will be held at CVS on September 26th.

Mr. Dupras said on Wednesday, September 16th, they will be doing a child safety seat inspection, along with Mrs. Dort and her crew, from 4:00 to 8:00 at the

Corinth Firehouse. They have been doing these monthly. For the holiday crackdown, they had nine DWI's, and one of those was part of the grant program. They ran a lot of traffic safety cars for the holiday weekend on a different grant. For the first two days of school, he ran some cars throughout the County, and there were 49 school zone violations. The Sheriff will have us continue to do that for the next several weeks. He said they helped the City of Saratoga Springs with the Travers, and the cooperation was awesome. They ran 10 deputies in the city until they decided they had everything handled. This Friday, the Sheriffs and State Police will provide a full-time escort car for a ride for missing children where 50 – 70 bicyclists will ride throughout the County stopping at different school districts. In cooperation with Mrs. Dort, they gave out over 300 bicycle helmets at the County Fair at the Sheriff's booth.

Mr. Dupras stated they are keeping staffing going the best that they can trying to meet the needs of all of the towns. He has heard that some of the smaller agencies don't have staffing because of vacations, etc. He said he would be willing to run a Sheriff car in the towns at the towns' disposal to help out with DWI enforcement.

Mr. Fornabia said they made 130 DWI arrests this summer, and 13 of them were drug impaired drivers. Our guys and girls are starting to pick up on the clues when it's not just alcohol. They had about 7,000 tickets and 125 AUO. They did two UDI details and one was with Saratoga Springs. This is where they take an underage operative to go in different retail establishments and bars to see if they would sell alcohol to their undercover operatives. If you have an establishment in your area that you hear is selling alcoholic beverages and you would like to contact us, during their next detail they will go in with an underage person and an undercover Trooper to see if they sell. He said they are willing to do that anywhere.

Mr. Fornabia said they did four child passenger fitting stations over the summer. They will be doing less of these, as the Sheriff's Department and Ballston Spa PD are doing these. He stated they will be offering assistance at these.

Mr. Fornabia stated they have had about 800 accidents and 150 personal injuries and two fatalities with motorcycles. He stated a new class of new Troopers just came out, and many of them want to come back to this County.

Mr. Williams said they did not have any DWIs during the Labor Day Crackdown.

Mr. Cordani reported they had two DWIs; one with the grant and one not. They had a 10 year old driving his drunk father home, and they arrested the father for that.

Ms. Lyle distributed copies of the Homecoming schedule and a listing of the 2016 DWI Victim Impact Panel Dates. She mentioned Dan Morley from the Sheriff's Department attends the VIPs every month to speak, but they are looking for other law enforcement participation as well. They now alternate between Ballston Spa and Clifton Park.

Ms. Lyle distributed copies of a flyer on free NARCAN trainings that they are offering on Thursday, September 24th for citizens in the community at the Saratoga Springs Public Library. She said there will be a presentation by Mike McEvoy who is the Director of the Saratoga County EMS. The data is one out of five kits gets used, so the more kits that gets out there the more lives that are saved. Mr. Fornabia stated there were four overdoses on the same day last week. Wilton Ambulance did revive someone. These were all in just a few hours of each other which means somebody came in with a bad batch of something. Two in Albany, one towards Rensselaer and the one in Wilton.

Ms. Lyle distributed flyers on prescription drug drop off locations that will be held on Saturday, September 26th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Mahoney said he lives in Saratoga Springs and he sees the police patrolling morning, noon and night. He said he has information on ignition interlock from NYS Probation data. In 2014, courts ordered just under 17,500 defendants to install ignition interlocks in their vehicles, and 4,483 actually did. He said 75% of those ordered did not primarily because they retitled their vehicles to someone else or sold their vehicle. In Saratoga County, there were just under 300 orders, and 184 did not. He mentioned the 1198 charges have increased dramatically. In Saratoga County in 2011, 19 people were ticketed for the 1198 violation which jumped to 26 in 2012 and doubled in 2013 to 53, and last year 75. He said not all of them are for DWI convictions but for reckless driving, reckless endangerment, etc.

Chairman Prestigiacomo said now schools are open, he scheduled an Aggressive Driving detail this week.

Mr. Fornabia said when he was at the Albany County STOP-DWI meeting, they had a representative from MADD who announced they have a program coming where volunteers will be sitting in courtrooms to rate the judges. We all know of some judges that probably shouldn't be there or who are sympathetic to the drunk drivers. He said he can only see positive things coming from that.

Mrs. Dort said Ed Frank is retiring from Choices 301, and it is being given to the Albany County Sheriff's Department.

Mrs. Dort stated they are doing a car seat check this Wednesday in observation of National Child Passenger Safety Week, September 13 – 19. She will be at the Navy Base on September 25th, along with the Sheriffs, doing car seat safety for their Health Fair. The Sheriffs and she will also be at Colonie Center with WRGB for their Health Fair. She said she will be at the Ballston Spa High School doing Alive at 25 for all of the Seniors. Mr. Fornabia said that should be interesting for the non-mandated kids. Mrs. Dort said she thought it would be good to see how they respond to this since they have not been ordered to take the class. She is not sure of that date as yet. She said she would like to see this class expand to have kids attend before they are mandated.

Mrs. Dort stated Cornell did receive both the occupant protection and child passenger safety grant for 2016. The occupant protection grant took a big cut. There are 13 fitting stations going forward on their grant. They cover Plattsburgh to Schenectady with AAA. They have about 70 Technicians. They also partnered with the Saratoga Automobile Museum, and they have four distracted driving simulators that are much better than the table top ones. She said Patti Donovan, Linda Champion and she will be going to the Rensselaer County VIP tomorrow night to see what they have. Patti and Linda went to one in Warren/Washington County a couple of weeks ago. We are trying to find out what we can do to improve the panels in Saratoga County. We held the first VIP last week at Cornell instead of Saratoga Springs. Parking is easier, and there were about 90 attendees. Three were asked to leave because of their BAC's. The Sheriffs handled whatever needed to be done. Everyone who attends is being breathalyzed. She said they received a lot of positive feedback with Sgt. Morley's presentation which is hard for her to watch. She stated she is concerned because many people want more graphic. She said all of the agencies are working well together. She said one

attendee came for a cell phone violation, and she does not understand why. They came from Bolton Landing.

Mrs. Dort said Mr. Waldron and her trained two more Alive at 25 instructors. She said Allen Bell, an EMT with Clifton Park EMS, will be a stationary person at the panel as well. Mike Raucci, from New Country Toyota, has donated 100 clipboards for the Victim Impact Panels so that people can write on them which is a huge benefit.

**** NEXT MEETING – MONDAY, OCTOBER 5TH AT 1:00 P.M. ****

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann